



NEWS

**For Immediate Release
March 13, 2003**

**Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact Documents
Available for UMTRA Ground Water Project Sites at Slick Rock, Colorado**

(Grand Junction, CO)—The U.S. Department of Energy Grand Junction Office (DOE–GJO) announces the availability of the final *Environmental Assessment of Ground Water Compliance at the Slick Rock, Colorado, UMTRA Project Sites* and the *Finding of No Significant Impact* document for the sites. The *Environmental Assessment* provides information concerning the potential effects of the proposed ground-water compliance strategy for the Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Ground Water Project sites at Slick Rock. The *Finding of No Significant Impact* states that no significant adverse environmental effects will result from the planned strategy and that an *Environmental Impact Statement* document is not needed.

The Slick Rock UMTRA Ground Water Project sites consist of two former uranium ore-processing facilities located in a remote area of southwest Colorado about 22 miles north of the town of Dove Creek in San Miguel County. These former processing facilities, referred to as the North Continent site and Union Carbide site, are located adjacent to the Dolores River.

The *Environmental Assessment* states that DOE's compliance strategy for both sites is to allow natural flushing to reduce the levels of contaminant concentrations in the ground water to acceptable levels within the 100-year time frame allowed by law. In conjunction with the compliance strategy, DOE will ensure that institutional controls are maintained to prevent future use of the ground water. Institutional controls protect public health and the environment by limiting access to a contaminated medium. DOE will also continue monitoring ground water and surface water at the Slick Rock sites.

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Reference copies of the *Environmental Assessment* and the *Finding of No Significant Impact* will be placed in the Dove Creek School Library in Dove Creek, the Montrose Public Library in Montrose, the Cortez Public Library in Cortez, the Egnar Middle School Library in Egnar, the Mesa County Public Library in Grand Junction, and the DOE–GJO Public Reading Room in Grand Junction by March 24, 2003. The documents will also be available on the DOE–GJO website at <http://www.gjo.doe.gov/ugw/sites/co/slickrock/slickrock.htm>. Copies of the documents can be requested by contacting DOE–GJO toll-free at 1–800–399–5618.

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